

Fall 2017

Division of Humanities and Social Sciences Fall 2017 Newsletter

Bridgewater College

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DIVISION *of* HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE | PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION | SOCIOLOGY
WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

FALL 2017

Klancher Awarded Curriculum Development Grant for Interfaith Studies

In 2016-2017, **Dr. Nancy Klancher** was awarded a \$10,000 curriculum development grant from the Teagle Foundation. The grant helped Dr. Klancher lead seven faculty members in developing and successfully launching the new interfaith studies concentration at the end of spring 2017. The concentration has a vocational focus, which partners liberal arts courses in religious studies, sociology, political science, psychology and theatre with students' pre-professional goals in pre-ministry, social work and community health. An introduction to interfaith studies course has been added

to the curriculum, in order to provide students with both the skills to engage in interfaith work and the interreligious literacy to work effectively with others. Students learn the skills of how to hold interfaith dialogues and deliberations, while also gaining insight into particular faith traditions and ethical, political and intellectual perspectives. The concentration culminates with a senior capstone course that allows students to reflect on case studies and interview local religious leaders to ensure they are prepared to integrate the skills of interfaith work into their professional and personal lives.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION HEAD

Dear Alumni:

One of my privileges as a Division Head is to welcome prospective students to campus. At each open house event, I highlight the ways that the humanities and social sciences offer students a chance to engage BIG questions—the enduring questions about who we are and how we got here. It is the excitement of asking those big questions that drives our teaching and scholarship on a daily basis. I'm sure you remember your own experiences designing well-articulated survey questions in research methods, digging into primary sources for your history papers, working through a finely tuned argument for a philosophy and religion essay, or reading a novel in French or Spanish that completely shifted how you view the world. As you read through this newsletter, you will discover that faculty and students across the division continue to ask scholarly questions with a deep belief that the answers they discover can help transform our communities into just and vibrant places to live. I hope you'll join us for the department receptions at Homecoming to find out more about what's happening now at BC.

Best Wishes,

Betsy

Dr. Harriett Hayes
hhayes@bridgewater.edu



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Department Receptions • 10 a.m., Campus Mall

**Stop by and reunite with faculty
and fellow alumni!**

Sociology Major Explores Food Insecurity in the Shenandoah Valley

Clara Metzler, a senior sociology major, was awarded a summer grant through The Research Experience at Bridgewater (TREB) to fund her exploration of food politics, food insecurity, and emergency food distribution networks in the Shenandoah Valley.

Metzler said, “My project focuses on the perspectives and perceptions of both those who may be food insecure, as well as those who are a part of the institutions and organizations working to meet community food needs. More specifically, my project focuses on what obstacles people who are food insecure face in accessing nutritionally adequate food, as well as the obstacles charitable organizations face in getting food into the hands of those who need it. In a broader sense, my project addresses both the impact and

limitations of the emergency food system as it operates in Rockingham County and the City of Harrisonburg.”

Having spent the summer interviewing emergency food recipients and the staff and volunteers at local agencies, Metzler is now coding and analyzing the data she has collected. This fall, her research will culminate in a senior honors project.



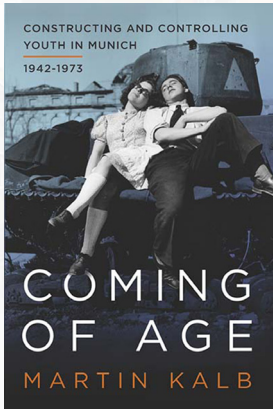
STUDENT RESEARCH

- ▶ Two history and political science majors presented at MARCUS (Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Undergraduate Scholarship) in October, and four students presented their excellent research at JMU's MadRush Conference in March.
- ▶ In March, seven students in the Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) History Honors Society presented at the PAT Regional Conference at Chowan University in North Carolina.

Faculty at International Conferences

- **Dr. Jacob Graham** attended a special Collegium Spinozanum at Groeningen University in the Netherlands. The opportunity allowed Dr. Graham to attend a summer school on Baruch Spinoza.
- **Dr. Jim Josefson** attended the Arendt & Critical Theory Conference in Germany in July 2017. He presented a new chapter from his current manuscript *Beauty, World & The Moment: Hannah Arendt's Aesthetic Politics*.
- **Dr. Martin Kalb** provided a presentation this summer as part of the 2017 Berlin-Brandenburg Colloquium on environmental history at the Humboldt University. His current research focuses on German settler narratives in Southwest Africa and the impact of environmental dynamics on German colonialism.
- **Dr. Alma Ramirez-Trujillo** attended the Association of Linguistics and Philology of Latin America's annual conference in Bogata, Columbia, in July, where she presented her research on the acquisition of Spanish by Nahuatl speakers in central Mexico.

▼ Works Published by Humanities and Social Science Faculty



Dr. Martin Kalb, Assistant Professor of History, has published his first book, *Coming of Age: Constructing and Controlling Youth in Munich, 1942-73*, with Berghahn, a highly regarded publisher that primarily deals with cultural studies.

Dr. Kevin Pallister, Assistant Professor of Global studies, has published *Election Administration and the Politics of Voter Access*, with Routledge. Pallister investigates why it is easier to vote in some democracies and not others by examining case studies in Central America, with additional data from Latin America.

Hayes Part of Collaborative Project on Intellectual Humility and Public Discourse

Dr. Harriett Hayes is part of a collaborative team investigating best practices for intellectual humility in the classroom. The research explores how dialogic pedagogy and skills can foster an ethic of curiosity and openness, thereby empowering students' personal, moral and civic engagement. Dr. Hayes' role in the project began with her work on Bridgewater College's Quality Enhancement Plan

(QEP). As part of the Academic Citizenship program, Bridgewater College has invited John Sarrouf, Director of Program Development at Essential Partners, to train students to facilitate difficult dialogues on campus. Over the past five years, this work has expanded to include a consortium of institutions including Gordon College, Tufts University and Southern Methodist University.

In January 2017, the team was awarded \$215,000 by the University of Connecticut Humanities Institute's "Intellectual Humility and Public Discourse Project" for a two-year endeavor. This fall, the project kicked off with a two-day training workshop for PDP-150 faculty who had the opportunity to explore ways they can integrate dialogic pedagogies into the first-year seminar.

NEW FACULTY

We are delighted to welcome the following new faculty to the division this semester:

- ▶ **Dr. Kathrin Kranz**, Assistant Professor of Global Politics
Dr. Kranz received her Ph.D. (2016) from The University of Notre Dame, where she completed her dissertation entitled "Armed with Good Intentions? Explaining Arms Embargo Compliance." Dr. Kranz specializes in security governance, and her research lies at the intersection of international relations, comparative politics and peace studies.
- ▶ **Prof. Kara Showalter Folmar '09**, Instructor of Spanish
Prof. Folmar received her M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College and is an alumna of Bridgewater College (class of 2009). She is moving into college-level language instruction with extensive skills in using educational technology and a commitment to integrating cultural elements into language acquisition.

PROMOTIONS

Dr. David Reznik earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor of sociology in the spring of 2017.



Student Activities Promoted

Bushido Club—Dr. Kevin Pallister helped found and advises the club. Many students have developed their own passion for jiu jitsu, such as Justin Swisher, who has joined the martial arts school where Dr. Pallister trains (in Staunton) and participated in his first jiu jitsu tournament in March.

Student Interfaith Board—The Student Interfaith Board attended a retreat (funded by the Kline Bowman

Institute for Creative Peacebuilding) at the Durga (Hindu) Temple of Virginia, in Fairfax. The Kline-Bowman Institute also sponsored two students attending the Interfaith Leadership Workshop in Atlanta, Ga., in January 2017.

Asian Student Association—The association engaged in multiple activities including a “Silent Library” event on April 1, 2017.

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute—Dr. Grace Martin served as faculty leader for BC students who attended the Institute in Chicago in the spring of 2017.

Numerous faculty/student roundtables—The division also sponsored roundtables such as those on immigration, Asian myths and stereotypes, and more.

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